HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

The Mission

The mission of the Health Care Authority's (HCA) Community Health Services (CHS) Program is to promote access to prevention and illness care for underserved and uninsured low-income populations in Washington State.

To accomplish this mission, the CHS Program:

- Provides over six million dollars annually for dental, medical, and migrant grant funding to thirty (30) not-for-profit community health clinics throughout the state.
- Provides technical assistance, consultation, education and training to contracted clinics and potential new clinics.
- Collects, analyzes and distributes health related data supplied by the clinics.
- Fosters support and provides information regarding community clinic dental, medical and migrant services within other state agencies.

The Community Health Clinics

The community health clinics represent a network of community and migrant health centers, public hospital affiliated clinics and local public health jurisdictions that provide an array of services to low-income and/or special populations with a focus on medical and/or dental care.

Some of the special populations targeted to receive clinic services include the following:

- migrant seasonal farmworkers
- other minority populations
- people with HIV/AIDS infections
- people with developmental disabilities
- ♦ substance abusers
- mental health consumers

- uninsured low-income
- ♦ underserved low-income
- ♦ homeless
- ♦ elderly
- ♦ refugees
- geographically isolated

The following facts provide some background on the 30 community health clinics and/or systems in Washington State funded by the HCA in 1999:

- A total of 264,695 medical clients and 108,140 dental clients received services at the community health clinics.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the client population served had incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Forty-three percent (43%) of the client population with incomes below 200% of the FPL had no insurance coverage such as Medicaid, Medicare, or the Basic Health (BH).

- The largest non-English native language group to receive clinic services is the Hispanic population, which represents thirty-eight percent (38%) of the total served.
- The community health clinics are located in 26 of the 39 counties in Washington State with over 100 separate delivery sites that serve residents of all counties.
- The clinics are generally located in geographic areas where there is a shortage of health professionals. These geographic areas include inner cities, industrialized areas and rural regions.

Community health clinics not only function as providers of health care, they coordinate services with other state programs, such as:

- ◆ Basic Health
- ♦ WIC Program
- ♦ First/Second Steps
- ♦ Maternal and Child Health
- Medical Assistance Administration
- ♦ HIV/AIDS

- ♦ Rural Health
- Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- ♦ Mental Health Division
- Division of Developmental Disabilities
- ♦ Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Policies of Community Health Clinics

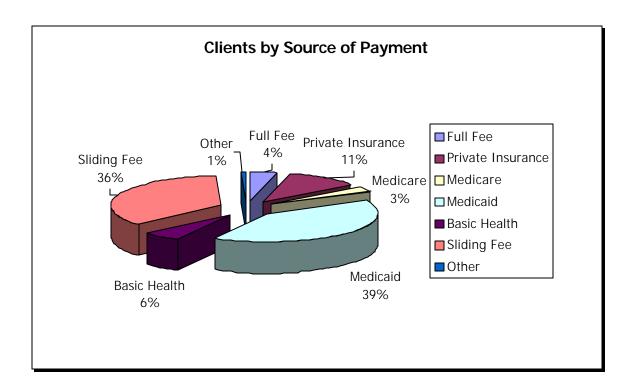
Community health clinics are different from other health care delivery systems. They receive state funding which mandates they:

- Provide health care regardless of an individual's ability to pay;
- Have established a sliding fee schedule for the adjustment of charges, based upon an individual's ability to pay;
- Be governed by a board of directors, which has representatives of the client populations served;
- Have established policies and procedures reflecting sensitivity to cultural and linguistic differences of individuals served; and
- When appropriate, maintain bilingual or multilingual staff, which enables them to communicate with the individuals served.

How Clients Pay

The majority of patients who utilize the clinics are either recipients of Medicaid (39%) or qualify for a sliding fee schedule (36%) that adjusts charges for services received. These sliding fee clients must be below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and have no other insurance coverage such as Medicaid, Medicare, or the Basic Health.

Percent of clients by source of payment is as follows:

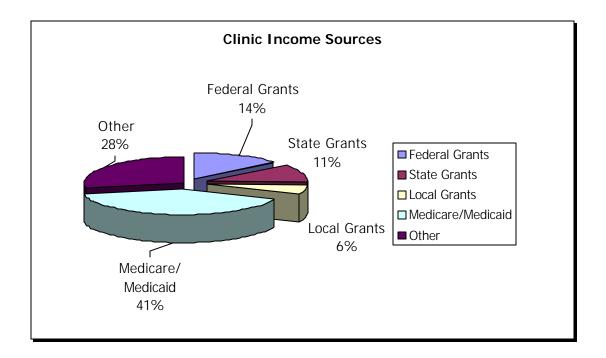


Payment Source	No. Clients
Full Fee	13,995
Private Insurance	39,560
Medicare	12,952
Medicaid	149,124
Basic Health	20,635
Sliding Fee	133,311
Other	3,258
Total	372,835

Funding the Clinics

Community health clinics receive funding from multiple sources. The largest source of income comes from reimbursement for services that is paid by third-party payers such as Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. The next largest source of income comes from grants received from federal, state and local governmental agencies. These government grants account for 35% of the total funding received by the clinics.

Percent of income by source is as follows:



Funding Source	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	"Other" Category Includes	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Federal Grants	25,873,995	14%	Volunteer and In-Kind	3,316,607	2%
State Grants	19,806,462	11%	Private Insurance	8,314,648	5%
Local Grants	10,445,169	6%	Basic Health	9,566,437	5%
Medicare/Medicaid	71,769,018	41%	Client Fees	10,583,14	6%
Other	50,749,677	28%	Danations	2	10/
Total	178,644,32	100%	Donations	1,883,366	1%
rotar	170,011,02	10070	Other Pay Sources*	8,065,906	5%
			Other Grants	9,019,571	5%
			Total	50,749,67	28%
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^{*} These sources are categories reported by clinics but not elaborated on.

Grant awards from the HCA are targeted to the number of patients a community clinic has who are at or below 200% of the poverty level and have no other insurance coverage such as the Basic Health or Medicaid.

Scope of Service

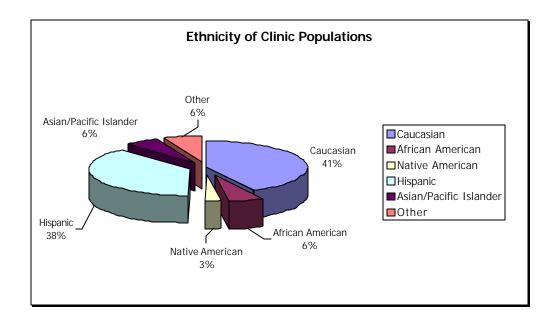
Direct clinical services are provided by one or more of the following health professionals: physicians; physician assistants; advanced registered nurse practitioners; dentists and dental hygienists.

Some of the services provided, or arranged for, include:

- Periodic Screening: Children, Adolescents, Adults
- Well Child Care
- **♦** Family Planning
- ♦ Prenatal/Postpartum Care
- ♦ Normal Obstetrical Deliveries
- ♦ High Risk Obstetrical Deliveries
- ♦ Nutrition Assessments and Education
- ♦ Preventive, Restorative and Emergent Dental Care
- ♦ Acute/Episodic Medical Care
- ♦ Management of Chronic Medical Problems
- ◆ Emergency/After Hours Medical Services

The clinics provide, or arrange for, 24 hour coverage.

Client Populations



Issues of Importance (As identified by representatives of community health clinics)

Availability of Health Professionals for Underserved Populations

The availability of health care professionals to the state's underserved populations remains an issue of importance to Washington's Community Health Clinics.

Dental Care

Increased access to preventive and restorative dental care is one of the most critical needs among low-income, uninsured and special populations in Washington State.

Lack of Transportation

For people who are home-bound, have limited access to transit systems, and for people living in rural Washington, the availability of transportation services is critical to gaining access to needed health care services.

Rural Health Care

Addressing the needs of rural health care systems will be necessary for continued access in rural areas.

Services to Homeless People

The problem of homelessness is increasing as affordable housing becomes more and more scarce. Homelessness is not limited to large urban areas such as Spokane, Everett, Tacoma and Seattle, but it is also a problem in rural areas and in smaller cities such as Mt. Vernon, Bellingham and Yakima.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Substance abuse is a serious problem. Substance abuse not only affects the health and well-being of the abuser, but also the health and well-being of the abuser's family and friends.

Managed Care and Low-income Populations

Straining the resources of all the community clinics is balancing the financial model of managed care with the needs of special populations.

Translation

Finding funding and personnel to expand translation services is becoming increasingly difficult. During the past five years there has been a tremendous influx of new populations within the state who are both low-income and speak minimal English.

Penny Bowman Acting Executive Director **45th Street Clinic** 1629 North 45th Street Seattle, WA 98103-6701 (206) 633-3350

Janet A. Hays Administrator Clallam Bay Medical Clinic 530 Bogachiel Way Forks, WA 98331 (360) 374-6271

Greg Brandenburg Chief Executive Officer Columbia Basin Health Association 140 East Main P.O. Box 546 Othello, WA 99344-0546 (509) 488-5256

Benjamin H. Flores Chief Executive Officer Columbia Valley Community Health Services 600 Orondo Avenue, Suite # 1 Wenatchee, WA 98801-2800 (509) 664-4575

Julia A. Miller Manager Community Care Clinics **Community Care Program, St. Peters Hospital** 413 Lilly Road, NE Olympia, WA 98506 (360) 493-7235 Jacqueline A. Feaver
Executive Director
Community Clinics of Pierce County
3418 E. McKinley Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98404
(253) 404-0737

As of: March 31, 2000

Peg Hopkins Executive Director Community Health Association of Spokane 9227 E. Main Spokane, WA 99206 (509) 444-8200

David Flentge President and Chief Executive Officer **Community Health Care** 101 East 26th Street, Suite 100 Tacoma, WA 98421-1108 (253) 597-4550

Guillermo V. Castaneda Executive Director Community Health Center La Clinica 515 West Court Street P.O. Box 1323 Pasco, WA 99301 (509) 547-2204

Desmond Skubi

Executive Director

Community Health Center of Snohomish County
2722 Colby Avenue, Suite 329

Everett, WA 98201
(425) 258-2797

Thomas Trompeter Executive Director

Community Health Centers of King County

403 East Meeker St., Suite 300 Kent, WA 98031-5942 (425) 277-1311

Linda M. McVeigh Executive Director

Country Doctor Community Health Centers

500 19th Avenue East Seattle, WA 98112 (206) 461-4503

Dian Cooper Executive Director

Cowlitz Family Health Center

1057 12th Avenue Longview, WA 98632 (360) 636-3892

Peter J. Theobald Executive Director Family Health Centers 716 First Avenue South P.O. Box 1340 Okanogan, WA 98840-1340 (509) 422-5700

Dorothy Wong Executive Director International Community Health Services 720 8th Avenue South, Suite 100 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 461-3617 Victor J. Dirksen Administrator **Jefferson General Hospital**

834 Sheridan Avenue Port Townsend, WA 98368

(360) 385-2200

John F. Browne Executive Director

Moses Lake Community Health Center

As of: March 31, 2000

605 Coolidge, Suite 101 Moses Lake, WA 98837 (509) 765-0674

Michael Dunniway Executive Director **N.E.W. Health Programs** 509 E. Main

509 E. Main PO Box 808 Chewelah, WA 99109 (509) 935-6001

Judy Moore Director

North Whidbey Community Clinic

1791 NE 1st Avenue PO Box 2175 Oak Harbor, WA 98277-2175 (360) 679-5590

Dana Zaichkin Director

Pacific Lutheran University Wellness Center (East Campus) 121st & Pacific Avenue Tacoma, WA 98447-0003 (253) 535-7354 Barbara P. Malich Executive Director

Peninsula Community Health Services 616 Sixth St. P.O. Box 960

Bremerton, WA 98337 (360) 478-2366

Linda Lake Executive Director

Pike Market Medical Clinic

1930 Post Alley Seattle, WA 98101-1015 (206) 728-1687

Kevin Hanon

Program Operations Coordinator

Pioneer Square Clinic

c/o Harborview Medical Center 206 Third Avenue South Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 521-1750

Kenneth M. Boucher

Manager

Providence Health and Education Center

500 S.E. Washington Avenue P.O. Box 1507 Chehalis, WA 98532 (360) 740-8364

Mark Secord Executive Director

Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers

905 Spruce Street, Suite 201 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 461-6935 Rogelio Riojas

Chief Executive Officer

Sea Mar Community Health Centers

As of: March 31, 2000

1040 S. Henderson Seattle, WA 98108 (206) 762-3730

Ralph Forquera Executive Director

Seattle Indian Health Board

606 - 12th Avenue South P.O. Box 3364 Seattle, WA 98114-3364

(206) 324-9360

Kay Sardo

Chief Executive Officer **The Opportunity Council**

314 East Holly Street, 2nd Floor Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 734-5121

Anita Monoian

Chief Executive Officer

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

12 South 8th Street P.O. Box 2605 Yakima, WA 98907-2605

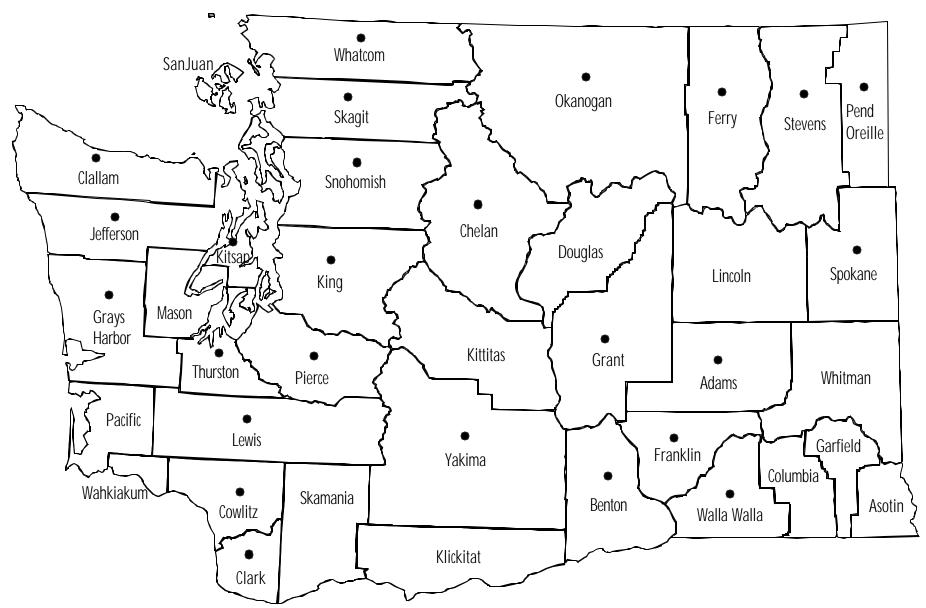
(509) 454-4143

Juan Carlos Olivares Executive Director

Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic

518 West 1st Avenue P.O. Box 190 Toppenish, WA 98948 (509) 865-5898

Community Health Services Contractor Delivery Sites



32 contractors provide: over 100 total delivery sites (•)* for medical and/or dental